

KIDDERMINSTER
Rural District Council.

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

FOR

1908.

KIDDERMINSTER :
PRINTED AT THE SHUTTLE PRESS.

KIDDERMINSTER

Rural District Council.



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CLERK.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1908.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Kidderminster Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The number of Births registered in the District during the year is 242, and the birth-rate 23·96. The average number for the past ten years is 244·9, and the average rate 25·99.

The number of Deaths registered is 127, and the death-rate 12·5. The average number for the past ten years is 139, and the average rate 12·7.

SICKNESS.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, four of them from the Foreign, two from the Wolverley district and two from Chaddesley. Three of the cases from the Foreign and one case from the Wolverley district were removed to the Infectious Hospital.

Eleven cases of Diphtheria have been notified, six from the Foreign, four from the Wolverley district, and one from Chaddesley. Four of the cases from the Foreign occurred in a farmhouse, where, on the west side of the house from which the prevailing winds blow, and quite close to the walls, there was a badly drained fold yard, from which the overflow ran into a stagnant ditch, which also received the drainage from the house. I saw the owner's agent on the subject, and he arranged for a pipe drain to be laid in place of the ditch, and carried some distance down the meadow. The fold yard also was emptied.

Nine cases of Erysipelas have been notified, three of them from the Foreign, four from the Wolverley district, and two from the Wribbenhall district.

There have been two cases of Enteric Fever, one from Broom and the other from Wribbenhall. In the former the child had drunk water from the well at a house from which a servant had gone home some months before suffering from Enteric Fever; but on analysis the water from this well was found pure and good. In the latter case (from Wribbenhall) the girl worked at one of the large factories in Kidderminster.

One case of Puerperal Fever has been notified.

The Inspector, on receipt of notification from me, visits all cases of infectious disease, investigating the surroundings and the probable source of the infection; giving advice regarding precautions to be taken, supplying disinfectants, and if necessary superintending fumigation. He at once reports the details to me, and no cases are removed to the Infectious Hospital without my instructions. At the termination of the illness, or after removal of a case to the hospital, he informs me what has been done as regards disinfection, whitewashing, and cleansing of rooms, etc. He also keeps me regularly and fully informed concerning all the important details of his work.

I have systematically visited the various portions of my district, and have, with the Inspector, made a house to house visitation of the whole of Cookley, and also of Wribbenhall. I am sorry to say that the arrangements for scavenging, etc., at Wribbenhall, have not been working on the whole satisfactorily. Complaints are very general as to the irregular and inefficient manner in which the contractor has done the work, and of this I had ample evidence in going from house to house. Many of the residents said they were worse off than they had been under the old system. It is to be hoped that in a new contract the Council will be able to make such terms as will ensure that the work is done thoroughly and methodically.

According to the instructions of the Local Government Board, I will give you some further details of my work in the district:—

Jan. 17th. Having been informed that Wedgbury had been depositing, and leaving uncovered, offensive nightsoil on gardens at the back of Smith's Buildings, Spencer Street, I sent the Inspector to him, ordering him at once to cover over

or dig in the filth, and warning him that he would be summoned if the offence was repeated. The Inspector also wrote to the owner of the property on the subject.

Feb. 17th. In response to a request from the manager, I visited the Brewery in Sutton Road. A sewer in the main road had burst, and flooded the cellar, in which were a number of vats of beer, open at the top, which consequently had been for several days exposed to sewage gases. I informed the manager that the beer must not be sold for consumption.

Feb. 19th. I called the Inspector's attention to filthy and dilapidated cottages at Broadwaters old forge. The paving was in holes, the windows broken, and the ceilings perfectly black. The doorsill of one house had broken away from the wall, and the drainage of the yard was defective. Notice was sent to the owner to put the premises in a proper condition for habitation.

May 14.—Noticing soapsuds flowing from a house above Wolverley Post Office, down through the village, I requested the Inspector to direct the occupier to dispose of his soapsuds elsewhere. The same day I called Inspector's attention to a filthy and dilapidated cottage in Portway Place, Cookley, and on the 26th to a dilapidated and foul privy ashpit at Hobro'.

June 12th. Having been informed that the water which the employes at one of the factories in my district have to drink was foul, and stored in a tank, I requested the Inspector to see into the matter at once, and also went myself to the works. The water from a well in the rock was pumped into a tank, from which it gravitated into a small cistern containing steam pipes, where it was boiled when required for making tea. The water was clear and free from smell, but the firm consented to submit a sample to the County Analyst, and his report being unsatisfactory, they had a new well sunk at a distance from the old one, much deeper, and with the upper portion lined with a steel tube to prevent surface infiltration.

Sep. 23rd. I requested Inspector to visit a filthy house in Portway Place, where the children were dirty, verminous, and suffering from Ringworm and Contagious Impetigo, and to serve a notice for proper cleansing and disinfection of the rooms and clothing, and to procure medical attention for the children.

Oct. 1st. I found on visiting the Franche Police Station that the pump was broken, and had been so for a month ; no

water being obtainable for flushing the closets at the station and adjoining constabulary buildings. The Inspector wrote to the County Council, and the matter was attended to at once.

Oct. 12. I called Inspector's attention to 159 and 160, Chester Road, where the roofs and spouting were defective, causing the rooms to be damp. The sinks and ashpits were foul and defective, and in one of the houses there was overcrowding of the inmates. Sanitary notices were served upon the owner and occupiers of these houses for the rectification of these nuisances and defects.

Oct. It having been reported to me that there was reason to suspect that the water supply of Wolverley was more or less generally contaminated, and knowing that samples taken for analysis from three different wells were found unsatisfactory by the County Analyst (though he considered that the water from one of them might be used for domestic purposes), I directed the Inspector to get authority from the Rural District Council to have samples from wells in other parts of the village analysed. These were found satisfactory, so no further steps were taken as regards the general supply of the village. Notice had been served upon the owners of the properties where the water was found impure, to provide a proper supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

Oct. 27th. In consequence of a complaint from the inmates of Bury House about their water supply, I went there. The water had a great deal of sediment, which was said to be much increased after rain, and had a quantity of floating atoms in it. The smell also was not correct. There was a gully directly over the well, in which were soapsuds and a cabbage leaf. The sink drain was choked and overflowing, and had been so, I was informed, for some time; and the overflow ditch from the dumbwell, which had not been emptied for twelve months, was said to be frequently very offensive. I requested the Inspector to serve notices to abate these nuisances and to get the water analysed. This was done, and as the County Analyst reported unfavourably notice was served upon the agent to provide a proper supply.

Dec. 1st. Having been informed that a cow at Puxton, suffering from ulcerated udder, was being milked with others, and the milk sold, I requested the Inspector to visit the farm. He did so, and finding the information correct, prohibited the

owner from selling the milk, and instructed him to call in a veterinary surgeon. I also saw the owner of the cow and cautioned him.

The Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses in the district have been regularly visited, and found, on the whole, in satisfactory condition.

I have visited the factories in the district, and found the sanitary arrangements, on the whole, satisfactory. At one of them I requested the manager to arrange to have the pans emptied twice a week instead of weekly, which he promised should be done.

Five cases of overcrowding have been dealt with, and all were remedied after notice from the Inspector.

The following schools have been closed on my recommendation :—Trimpley School, in January, on account of Measles ; Seabright's Endowed Schools, Wolverley, in May, for Mumps ; and Cookley Schools in November, on account of Mumps, which had been prevalent there throughout September and October.

I have referred to action that I have taken in Wolverley in connection with the water supply, and the Inspector has given you particulars of the instances in which he has dealt with temporary deficiencies. On the whole the water supply has been well maintained.

I hope now that the Local Government Board Enquiry concerning the Whitville drainage scheme has been held, there will be nothing to delay the carrying out of the work, and that you will proceed with the scheme for draining Sutton Common and Foley Park, which, as I have before stated, is more urgently needed than that at Whitville.

With the exception of these areas the District is, and has been during the year, in a good sanitary condition.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. H. ADDENBROOKE.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT												NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE			DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Number		Rate.*
		Number.	Rate,*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.*							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1898	10100	232	22·7	17	73·28	110	10·78	...	...	0	110	10·78
1899	10100	268	26·27	26	97·01	128	12·6	2	2	0	126	12·35		
1900	10200	252	24·72	37	146·8	146	14·31	...	...	0	146	14·3
1901	10100	251	24·8	28	111·5	134	13·3	1	1	0	133	13·3		
1902	10100	246	24·3	29	117·9	135	13·35	7	7	10	138	13·5		
1903	10100	236	23·3	23	97·03	127	12·53	26	21	22	128	12·6		
1904	10100	254	25·1	30	118·1	130	12·8	6	6	14	138	13·5		
1905	10100	240	23·7	20	83·3	135	13·3	1	1	13	147	14·5		
1906	10100	245	24·25	20	81·6	118	11·68	...	...	11	129	12·7
1907	10100	225	22·27	18	80	128	12·6	...	...	17	145	14·35
Averages for years 1898-1907	10087·8	244·9	25·99	24·8	97·94	139	12·7	4·3	3·8	8·7	164	15·78		
1908	10100	242	23·96	19	78·09	127	12·5	2	2	16	141	13·9		

*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13, calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 32,935.

Total population at all ages at Census of 1901, 10,111; Number of inhabited houses, 2260; Average number of persons per house, 4·47. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Kidderminster Borough Infectious Hospital. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Kidderminster Union Workhouse, Kidderminster Infirmary and Children's Hospital.

Other Institutions the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District—General Hospital, Birmingham. Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

(TABLE II). VITAL STATISTICS of separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.

Kidderminster Rural District.

Names of Localities.	1				2				3				4			
	KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN.				WOLVERLEY.				CHADDESLEY CORBETT.				WRIBBENHALL.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.
1898	2998	62	32	5	2751	52	30	6	2334	63	25	3	2117	55	23	3
1899	2998	70	36	7	2751	81	34	8	2334	75	30	6	2117	42	28	5
1900	2998	69	30	12	2751	69	51	11	2334	60	33	8	2117	54	32	6
1901	3064	83	33	10	2751	64	43	10	2209	56	30	7	2083	47	28	1
1902	3064	79	34	7	2755	62	28	6	2210	62	34	11	2083	43	39	5
1903	3060	63	33	6	2750	77	44	8	2210	54	28	3	2080	42	23	6
1904	3060	77	42	8	2750	70	31	6	2210	57	33	14	2080	50	32	2
1905	3060	76	38	7	2750	64	47	7	2210	58	36	4	2080	42	26	2
1906	3060	71	32	4	2750	63	22	5	2210	61	32	6	2080	50	32	5
1907	3060	72	35	3	2750	57	39	7	2210	52	24	4	2080	44	30	4
Averages of years 1898 to 1907.	2985.8	72.2	34.5	6.9	2751.3	65.9	36.9	7.4	2230.9	58.9	30.5	6.6	2109.1	47.1	29.3	3.9
1908	3060	81	33	5	2750	58	34	5	2210	50	28	6	2080	53	32	3

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

TABLE III.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.				Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Kidderminster Foreign.	Wolverley.	Chaddeley Corbett.	Wribbenhall.	Kidderminster Foreign.	Wolverley.	Chaddeley Corbett.	Wribbenhall.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.										65 and up'wds
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	} 11	..	..	5	4	2	6	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	9	..	..	..	..	7	3	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	8	..	1	7	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	31	0	1	13	5	10	13	10	4	4	3	1	0	0	0	4

H.—Kidderminster Borough Infectious Hospital, Stourport Road, Kidderminster. Total available beds 80 (60 under ordinary circumstances). Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated 2.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE IV.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH		DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS," WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in the Public District.
		All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Kidderminster Foreign	Wolverley.	Chaddesley. Corbett.	Wibbenhall.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Scarlet Fever	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria (including Mem-braneous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	..	8	..	..	1	..	5	2	1	4	..	3	..
Diarrhoea	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	5	..	..	1	..	4	..	2	..	2	1	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant disease	..	12	..	..	..	..	6	6	2	2	4	4	..
Bronchitis	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..
Pneumonia	..	5	2	1	..	..	2	..	2	..	3	..	..
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of Liver)	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..
Diseases & accidents of parturition	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	..	15	1	..	..	1	6	7	4	2	4	5	..
Accidents	..	6	..	1	..	..	5	..	3	1	1	1	..
Suicides	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes	..	58	7	3	2	..	12	34	14	17	12	15	..
All causes	..	125	19	7	5	1	44	49	31	34	28	32	2

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE V.—INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1908.
Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes.	Certified ..	5	..	3	1	9	3	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	18
	Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Common Infectious Diseases:</i>																		
Whooping Cough ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Diarrhœal Diseases:</i>																		
Diarrhoea, all forms ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	3
<i>Wasting Diseases:</i>																		
Premature Birth ...		3	..	1	1	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Want of Breast-milk Starvation ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth ..		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..		1	..	2	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
<i>Other Causes:</i>																		
Erysipelas ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other Causes ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
TOTAL		5	..	3	1	9	3	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	19

Population. Estimated to middle of 1908, 10,100. Births in the year—legitimate, 233; illegitimate, 9.
Deaths from all Causes at all ages, 127. Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants, 18; illegitimate infants, 1.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT. FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORK- PLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1-INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUTIONS.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	15 No Factory Laundries	2	None
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	55	3	"
WORKPLACES	1	None	"
TOTAL	71	5	None

2-DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS.
	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED TO H.M. INSPECTOR.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	None	None
Other Nuisances	1	1	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse ..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	3	3	None	None

Sec. 22 of the Public Health Amendment Act has NOT been adopted.

3-HOME WORK.

No Outworkers' Lists Received.

Number of Inspections of Outworkers' Premises—None.

4-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year: Wheelwrights, 2; Blacksmiths, 13; Builder and Carpenters, 2; Coffin and Cabinet Makers, 2; Wheelwright, Blacksmith, and Coffin Maker, 1; Carpenters, 3; Coal Merchant and Haulier, 1; Dressmakers, 6; Tailor and Drapers, 2; Builder and Contractors, 2; Bakers, 14; Boot and Shoe Makers, 5; Painter, 1; Carpenter and Iron Roof Builder, 1; Laundries, 5; Photographer, 1; Carpenter and Wheelwright, 1; Carpenter and Joiner, 1; Dress and Costume Makers, 3; Saddler, 1.—*Total, 67.*

5-OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—*None.*

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act—*None.*

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act

One Letter of Complaint, Abstract not hung up in Work Room (attended to).

No underground Bakehouses.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

KIDDERMINSTER,
January 5th, 1909.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to present you with my Twenty-fourth Annual Report, being that for the year ending December 31st, 1908.

The number of sanitary notices served, 287 ; as against 286 last year ; increase, 1.

The notices related to 190 nuisances, as against 183 last year ; increase, 7.

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Foul and offensive privy ashpits	...	83
Accumulations or deposits	...	8
Foul and offensive piggeries	...	5
Defective drainage	...	10
Overcrowding cases	...	5
Want of proper water supplies	...	9
Dilapidated cottages and premises	...	15
Foul and overflowing dumbwells	...	10
Defective dumbwell pump	...	1
Unwholesome dwelling-houses	...	17
Defective sinks	...	1
Stale and offensive wash	...	3
Defective cesspits	...	4
Defective pavings round wells	...	3
Defective water-closet	...	1
Animal kept, so as to be a nuisance	...	1
Defective covering to Dumbwell	...	1
Foul Pan Closets	...	1
Deepening of Dumbwells	...	1
Miscellaneous Nuisances	...	11

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

Under this Act certificates have been received from the Medical Officer of Health relating to the following cases, which total 31, as against 54 last year ; decrease, 23.

In the CHADDESLEY CORBETT District, comprising the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone, Broom, and Rushock :

Scarlet Fever,	2	..	last year,	21	...	decrease,	19
Diphtheria,	1	...	„	2	..	„	1
Enteric Fever,	1	...	„	1			
Total,				4		24	decrease, 20

The Scarlet Fever cases were : 1 at Lower Chaddesley and 1 at Yielding Tree in the parish of Chaddesley Corbett. The Diphtheria case occurred at the Woodside Farm ; and the case of Enteric at Broom.

No removals into the Borough Infectious Hospital took place, and no infectious disease was reported from Rushock or Stone.

The WRIBBENHALL DISTRICT, comprising Ribbesford, Dowles, Upper Arley, and Wribbenhall.

Scarlet Fever,	0	...	last year,	6	...	decrease,	6.
Erysipelas	2	.	last year,	3	...	decrease,	1.
Enteric	1	...	last year,	1			
Diphtheria	0	...	last year,	1	..	decrease,	1.
Puerperal	1	...	last year,	1			

Total, 4 ... last year, 12 ... decrease, 8.

No cases of Scarlet Fever were removed into the Borough Infectious Hospital. The cases of Erysipelas occurred : 1 Stourport Road, and 1, Wribbenhall Village. The Enteric case at Wribbenhall Village ; the Puerperal Fever case at Pound Green, Upper Arley, which proved fatal. No infectious disease was reported for Dowles or Ribbesford parishes.

WOLVERLEY DISTRICT, comprising the parishes of Wolverley and Churchill :

Scarlet Fever,	2	...	last year,	7	...	decrease,	5.
Erysipelas	4	...	last year,	3	...	increase,	1.
Diphtheria	4	...	last year,	1	...	increase,	3.
Enteric	0	...	last year,	2	...	decrease,	2.

Total, 10 ...last year, 13 ... decrease, 3.

One removal to the Borough Infectious Hospital took place from Churchill Village. The Erysipelas cases occurred, Wolverley Village, 1; The Lowe, 1; Alfred Place, Cookley, 1; and Lion Fields, 1. The Scarlet Fever cases: Sion Hill, Broadwaters, 1, and Churchill Village, 1. The Diphtheria cases: 2, The Gardens, Cookley; Foundry Bank, Cookley, 1; and Island Pool, 1.

THE FOREIGN OF KIDDERMINSTER.

Scarlet Fever,	4	...	last year,	1	...	increase,	3.
Diphtheria	6	...	last year,	1	...	increase,	5.
Enteric	0	...	last year,	0			
Erysipelas	3	...	last year,	3			

Total, 13 ... last year, 5 .. increase, 8.

The Erysipelas cases were: 1, Honeybottom; 1, Hoobrook; and 1, Wassell Wood. The Scarlet Fever cases: 1, Sandhouses, Franche; 1, Marlpool Lane; 1, Franche; and 1, Foley Park. The Diphtheria cases occurred: 4 at Low Habberley in one residence; 1, Fir Cottage, Franche; and 1, Foley Park. The removals into the Borough Infectious Hospital: 1 from the Sandhouses, Franche; 1 from Honeybottom terrace; and 1 from Park Hall Cottage, Birmingham-road.

THE BOROUGH INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

Four cases were removed into the Borough Hospital by instructions of the Medical Officer of Health, as against twelve last year. Decrease, eight.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH WATER ACT.

Under sect. 6, chap. 35, of the above Act, two notices for houses in course of erection were served. Four samples of water were taken from wells at Wolverley and Brocm, by instructions of the Medical Officer of Health, and also three samples taken from the Village of Wolverley, by instructions of the Kidderminster Rural District Council. These samples were sent to the County Analyst. Four were returned from Analyst satisfactory, and fit for drinking purposes; and three not satisfactory, for which notices have been served to provide water fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

Bye-laws relating to new buildings have been adopted by the Council and are now in force. Three residences which have the town water laid on, two are under notice, together

with twelve additional buildings, which have a supply of water within available distance.

DISINFECTION.

In all cases of disease a plentiful supply of disinfectants is given, and fumigation, whitewashing, and cleansing are ordered, and reports of each case sent to the Medical Officer of Health, who visits the case.

DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS, AND COWSHEDS.

The above have had my surveillance from time to time, and cleansing and white-washing have been done, except in a few cases, when notices were issued and the neglect remedied. Two names have been added to the Register during the year.

BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These have been regularly inspected, both by the Medical Officer and myself, and found on the whole clean and satisfactory, except in a few instances which were remedied after notice. There are no underground Bakehouses in the district.

SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION.

This is regularly carried out in all parts of the district.

CANAL BOATS ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

Boats inspected 133, last year 132; increase, 1. Visits to the canal, 61, visits and saw no boats, 11. Boats conforming to Acts and Regulations, 127. Boats with one or more infringements, 6. Boats left outstanding, 0. Persons found on boats—males 301, females 11, children 10.

The infringements of Regulations and Acts consisted of: Absence of Registration Certificate (Breach of Section 3) two. Breach of regulations 9; requiring interior of cabins to be painted, 3. Breach of Section 3, water vessel of insufficient capacity, 1.

I again certify to the general improvement and good condition of the boats coming under my inspection. Of 133 boats inspected, only six infringements were found.

BYELAWS RELATING TO NUISANCES.

Several cases came under my notice, and were remedied.

CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.

Trimpley School closed from January 20th to February 11th, owing to measles. Wolverley Mixed and Infants closed from May 1st until May 22nd, through the prevalence of mumps. Cookley Mixed and Infants closed from Nov. 16th to Dec. 7th, 1908, through the prevalence of mumps.

ANTHRAX IN CATTLE.

During the year there have been several cases of Anthrax in the district. Every precaution was taken, and the carcasses were burnt. Cleansing and whitewashing done.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water supply of the district has been well maintained.

FATORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Workshops under inspection : Wheelwrights, 2 ; Blacksmiths, 13 ; Builder and Carpenter, 2 ; Coffin and Cabinet Maker, 2 ; Wheelwright, Blacksmith, and Coffin Maker, 1 ; Carpenter, 3 ; Coal Merchant and Haulier, 1 ; Dressmakers 6 ; Tailor and Draper 2 ; Builders and Contractors 2 ; Bakers 14 ; Boot and Shoe Makers, 5 ; Painter, 1 ; Carpenter and Iron Roof Builder, 1 ; Laundries, 5 ; Photographer, 1 ; Carpenter and Wheelwright, 1 ; Dress and Costume Maker, 3 ; Saddler, 1 ; Carpenter and Joiner, 1 ; Total, 67.

No lists of Outworkers or Home-workers have been received by me.

The workshops are visited regularly, and on the whole are kept clean and satisfactory ; the few exceptions were soon remedied.

Special inspection, in company with the Medical Officer of Health, of the whole of Cookley, including a house to house visitation, took place on May 16th, 23rd, 29th, and June 5th. Special Inspections, in company with the Medical Officer of Health, were made at Wribbenhall and Catchem's End, on Sept. 19th, Nov. 4th and 30th, and where nuisances found, the Contractor's attention was called to the same, and that of owners in the case of structural defects.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Over 72 letters have been written with reference to Fever cases and other matters, &c. The nuisance cases have been abated without legal prosecutions. There are only six outstanding cases.

Trusting that in my capacity as Inspector of Nuisances and Inspector of Canal Boats I have given you satisfaction, and thanking you for your kind assistance and support in the discharge of my duties,

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES STEADMAN,

Inspector of Nuisances.

